

***I am the Messenger* by Markus Zusak**
Incoming 12th Grade - Literacy

Journal Prompt Directions: Mandatory Assignment

Complete **both** journal prompts. Each journal response must be a *minimum* of 200 words and must be answered in completion.

Journal prompts must be submitted to your 2019-2020 school year English teacher on day 2 of your first academic cycle. Each journal entry is worth (40) points. There will also be a mandatory (20) question multiple choice test on day 2 of your first academic cycle that will be worth (20) points. The combined journal prompt and multiple choice test grade will count as a test grade for first quarter and a late submission will result in a loss of (10) points per day.

1. Throughout the novel, Ed's relationships with Audrey, Ritchie and Marv change. Explain how his relationships change. Give specific details from the story.
2. The theme of hope develops throughout the novel with each successful mission. Explain how any 3 missions develop this theme. Give specific details from the story.

Study Guide: Optional Assignment

The following study guide is an optional assignment. Students who complete it may earn up to (10) bonus points to be combined with the journal prompt and multiple choice test score. It should be submitted on day 2 of your first academic cycle to your English teacher with your two journal prompts.

Part 1. *The First Message.*

1. How does Ed become a hero?
2. Describe Ed's family.
3. Describe Ed's friends Audrey, Ritchie and Marv.
4. What does Ed mean when he says, "Why can't the world hear? Because it doesn't care."
5. What does Ed look for in the cemetery?

Part 2. *The Stones of Home.*

1. What happened to the man on Edgar Street?
2. What does Ed confess to Audrey?
3. What is the message Tony wants Ed to deliver to his brother, Father O'Reilly?
4. How does Ed lure people into going to Church on Sunday? Is it successful?
5. Why does Ed beat up Gavin Rose?

Part 3. *Trying Times for Ed Kennedy.*

1. Describe Ed's dream. Why is it significant?
2. How does Ed determine the locations of the next people he is supposed to visit?
3. What does Lua give to Ed in return? (2 things)
4. Why does Ed's mother say she hates him? What does she mean by this?
5. What is waiting for Ed when he returns to his seat?

Part 4. *The Music of Hearts.*

1. What does Angie give Ed for Christmas? Why?
2. What does Ed mean when he says, "It's the person, Ma, not the place"?
3. What does Ritchie say is the one thing he wants? What does he mean by this?
4. How does Ed get Ritchie to reveal his secret? What is his secret?
5. What was the purpose of Ed's message for Audrey?

Part 5. *The Joker.*

1. Where does the last message instruct Ed to go? Who does he think sent him the cards now?
2. What was the purpose of Ed receiving all the messages? In other words, what was he supposed to accomplish for himself?
3. Someone is waiting for Ed at his apartment when he returns home. Who is it and what does he reveal?
4. What does Ed mean when he says, "I'm not the messenger at all. I'm the message"?

Helpful Vocabulary:

Words are in order of appearance

- Reluctant
- Amiable
- Jocular
- Sadistic
- Sanctimonious
- Plethora
- Irrelevant
- Disdain
- Leniency
- Trepidation
- Desolation
- Chastise
- Reprehensible
- Foreboding
- Obstinate